

Message Text

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16 L
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 624
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, USEC
SUBJECT: GATT MINISTERIAL AND ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) ROME 9192 B) ROME 8961.

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MATTEOTTI SEPTEMBER 6
TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR THE TOKYO GATT MINISTERIAL AND ONCE
AGAIN TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF A SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL ART. XXIV:6
NEGOTIATION.

2. REGARDING TOKYO MINISTERIAL (WHERE, AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE,
MATTEOTTI IS LEADING ITALIAN DELEGATION) AMBASSADOR LEFT INFORMAL
PAPER SUMMARIZING BROAD LINES OF US THINKING (COPIES BEING POUCHED
EB AND EUR) AND MADE SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT MATTEOTTI DO ALL
POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE EC CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESSFUL MEETING
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THROUGH INTERCESSION WITH THE FRENCH.

3. MATTEOTTI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT, IN VIEW OF ITALY'S RECENT RECORD ON EC MATTERS, HE WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT FRANCE WOULD LEND SYMPATHETIC EAR TO ITALIAN INTERCESSION. HE COULD NONETHELESS SAY THAT GOI IS MAKING APPROACH TO FRENCH PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL SUGGESTING THAT GOF MIGHT REMAIN SILENT IN TOKYO, RESERVING ITS POSITION, RATHER THAN ADDING DISCORDANT NOTE TO WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE UNIFIED EC VIEWS.

4. MATTEOTTI ALSO REITERATED THE GREAT INTEREST THAT ITALY HAS BOTH IN SUCCESSFUL ARTICLE XXIV:6 US-EC PACKAGE AND IN THE TOKYO MINISTERIAL. RE LATTER, HE QUOTED ITALIAN PROVERB THAT A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING IS HALF THE BATTLE. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A NEW NOTE, MATTEOTTI PUT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EMPHASIS ON A GRADUAL APPROACH, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS WHERE HE SUGGESTED THAT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO OBTAIN IF THEY ARE PHASED OVER AN APPROPRIATE TIME PERIOD.

5. ON XXIV:6 MATTEOTTI ECHOED THE STATEMENT WHICH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROVIDED SEPTEMBER 5 (REF A). HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT GOF IS STILL IMPORTANT OBSTACLE TO SETTLE DESPITE SOME SIGNS OF INCREASED FRENCH FLEXIBILITY IN OTHER AREAS. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HIS MINISTRY AND GOF WILL DO THE MOST WITHIN THEIR CAPACITY TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. VOLPE

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